

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00 L-03

DODE-00 PRS-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 SY-05 AID-05

OMB-01 NSAE-00 /077 W

----- 045809

O R 140935Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7427

NASA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

ZZEN/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 752

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NASA MA US

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO MALAGASY GOVERNMENT ON CLOSURE OF NASA
STATION

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

REF: STATE 164819 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CHARGE MET WITH MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER AT 10:30
A.M. AND DELIVERED NOTE TRANSMITTED REFTEL TOGETHER WITH
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. NO IMMEDIATE REACTION BY FOREIGN
MINISTER BUT HE IS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE AND CONSULAR OFFICER MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
DR. REMI TIANDRAZA AT 10:30 A.M. JULY 14. CHARGE MADE ORAL
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PRESENTATION BASED ON REFTEL INCLUDING STRONG PROTEST ON

OCCUPATION OF STATION BY MALAGASY TROOPS. IN ADDITION CHARGE MADE DETAILED COMMENTS ON FORMALITIES OF CLOSING STATION, DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NASA DEPENDENTS, AND REQUESTED FULL AND COMPLETE COOPERATION OF MALAGASY GOVERNMENT IN MOST CONCILIATORY TONES POSSIBLE. SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS TO NOTE COVERED IN AIDE MEMOIRE TEXT OF WHICH IS SUBJECT OF

SEPTEL. IN ADDITION CHARGE WROTE CONCILIATORY PRESS RELEASE (SEPTEL) WHICH IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED. CHARGE INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HE PLANNED TO DO THIS AND SAID HE HOPED THAT MALAGASY GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO ISSUE CONCILIATORY STATEMENT AND NOT INFLAME LOCAL SITUATION.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID VERY LITTLE IN RESPONSE. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY MADE GROSSLY UNCOMFORTABLE BY SITUATION AND WAS NOT VERY ARTICULATE IN DEFENDING MALAGASY POSITION. HE ASKED ME WHETHER THE US PLANNED TO SEVER DIPLOMAIC RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM "NOT ON OUR PART, THAT DEPENDS ON THE ACTIONS OF THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT."

3. IN DISCUSSING PRESS COMMUNIQUE WITH SENIOR USIS EMPLOYEE. HE CONVEYED TO ME THAT MANY MALAGASY THAT HE KNOWS EXPECT EITHER US OR MADAGASCAR TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE AGREED CONCILIATORY PRESS COMMUNIQUE COULD BE HELPFUL BUT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING REACTION OF RATSIRAKA. MOST FOREIGN OBSERVERS HERE WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN TO FULLY ANTICIPATED THAT US WOULD REJECT RATSIRAKA'S DEMANDS AND WOULD BE STRONGLY OFFENDED BY HIS METHODS. THE SAME SOURCES PREDICT THAT RATSIRAKA WILL REACT STRONGLY AND UNFAVORABLY TO US REJECTION AND THAT HE PROBABLY GENUINELY BELIEVED THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY EVEN AN UNREASONABLE SUM TO RETAIN NASA STATION IN MADAGASCAR.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALL THESE CONCERNS IN MIND IN ITS SECURITY POSTURE AND PRELIMINARY E&E PLAN ACTIONS ARE UNDER WAY. ELFERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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